Reactors. 12 such reactors are in operation and 4 more are under construction. These reactors are suitable for many countries having small electricity grids and wanting to enter nuclear power with low investments. Though NPCIL has potential to export small size reactors, there is no proposal under consideration in the Government.

(c) The overnight construction cost (namely the cost without adding escalation because of inflation and the interest on borrowing during the construction period) of these reactors is about Rs. 5.2 crore/MWe at 2003 prices. Authentic cost data on recent deals abroad is not available. However, considering the standardized design, NPCIL reactors are expected to be very competitive.

New Nuclear Power Stations

896. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have given clearance to four sites for nuclear power stations as the technology flow from Indo-US deal on nuclear power is expected to come through; and

(b) if so, the details of the four locations cleared and the pre-project activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Site Selection Committee set up by the Government in the year 1998 had evaluated different sites in the country and recommended four sites for setting up nuclear power plants in future. The Government has recently accorded in-principle approval for the following sites:

*Kudankulam-Tamil Nadu

*Kakrapar-Gujarat

*Rawathbhata-Rajasthan

*Jaitapur-Maharashtra

This proposal was mooted long ago and is not linked to the Indo-US deal. The Government has also accorded approval for taking up pre-project activities in all the above sites including land acquisition in case of Jaitapur site.